

The Warren-Alquist Act reiterates state water policy in terms of conserving water and using alternative sources of water supply:" It is further the policy of the state and the intent of the Legislature to promote all feasible means of energy and water conservation and all feasible uses of alternative energy and water supply sources." (emphasis added).⁶³

Consistent with the Board policy and the Warren-Alquist Act, the Energy Commission will approve the use of fresh water for cooling purposes by power plants which it licenses only where alternative water supply sources and alternative cooling technologies are shown to be "environmentally undesirable" or "economically unsound." Additionally, as a way to reduce the use of fresh water and to avoid discharges in keeping with the Board's policy, the Energy Commission will require zero-liquid discharge technologies unless such technologies are shown to be "environmentally undesirable" or "economically unsound." The Energy Commission interprets "environmentally undesirable" to mean the same as having a "significant adverse environmental impact" and "economically unsound" to mean the same as "economically or otherwise infeasible."⁶⁴

63. Public Resources Code Section 25008.

64. "Feasible" is defined under the CEQA as meaning "capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social and technological factors." (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15365.) The same definition exists in the Energy Commission's siting regulations. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1702(e).)